ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A packet transfer device has a layer 2 switch
and performs switching by referring to header information
of a 3rd layer and higher layers. Input/output ports re-
ceives packets from and transmits packets to other devices
connected to the packet transfer device. A header infor-
mation extracting circuit extracts header information be-
longing to a 3rd layer (network layer) and higher layers
of a network protocol from packets inputted from the re-
spective input/output ports. A table stores header infor-
mation and control information corresponding to the header
information in association with each other. A control in-
formation acquiring circuit acquires control information
corresponding to the header information extracted by the
header information extracting circuit from the table. A
processing circuit processes packets based on the control
information acquired by the control information acquiring
circuit.